

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak against the committee amendment, I guess, and it is not that I am really in favor that much of corporate income taxes. I did not vote to raise them the last time they were raised when Governor Thone and others wanted them raised. But just in looking over recently what has been happening with regard to corporations at the federal level, I want to remind you one more time that since the 1950s the percentage of the federal income tax which, of course, is the big income tax, the corporations have paid, has dropped from near 30 percent all the way down to 11 percent last year, or two years ago, and then last year basically in about a year's period it was cut in half to about 6 percent of the federal taxes. So throughout that period of time the corporates' share of taxes has been decreasing very rapidly. In addition to that, the corporate benefits from tax exempt financings from certain depreciation in investment credit systems has been increasing very rapidly. The result again is the shifting of the tax load very dramatically and very rapidly onto the individual taxpayer, the individual middle-class taxpayer. Now maybe in the long run that is what we want to do, put it all on sales and income tax and make it all very upfront so the taxpayer knows exactly what he is paying. But I suggest to you that we are going too rapidly at this and that the burden on the middle-class taxpayer is becoming too great too rapidly and this is not a good time to be further decreasing the corporate income tax even at a smaller scale on the state level. You know, if we made the philosophic decision at one point in time that a certain percentage of the individual income tax rate is the appropriate corporate income tax rate, then I say for now we should look at it like a marriage vow, for better, for worse, richness or for poorer, in sickness and in health, you know, let's keep them together. Let's not let one of the team members bail out when the times are a little bad. So I would like to ask you to reject the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler. May I remind you that there are 13 minutes left on the debate on this bill.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would join those who oppose the concept of both the committee amendment and the Hefner amendment, and I guess we are on the Hefner